

# Tax Phishing Scam



**T**ax season is the busy season for identity thieves. Be careful when sharing your personal and tax information – particularly online.

In the Tax-Season Phishing Scam, crooks send fake email, text and other messages that appear to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. The fraudsters try to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal their identities.

The email may seek information related to filing status, personal and PIN information and other tax-related details. It also may ask the victim to click on a bogus website that appears to be an official IRS site but instead uses malware to steal personal information from the victim's computer.

To learn about other frauds, visit <http://da.lacounty.gov/community/fraud-alerts>

## Helpful Tips

- Don't provide personal or financial information solicited by email, text, online or other communications that you didn't initiate.
- Look carefully at email addresses and website URLs before opening; don't click on suspicious links.
- If uncertain, contact the IRS or a tax professional through official channels.



**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF A SCAM, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**



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